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**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2663**

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	NICHOLS	Examiner:	Juntima, N.
Serial No.:	09/777,632	Group Art Unit:	2663
Filing Date:	2/6/2001	Docket No.:	R26-25192
Title:	HIGH LEVEL MESSAGE PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT BY A PLURALITY OF MESSAGE-SENDING NODES SHARING A SIGNAL BUS		

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9/27/05*

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 13, 2005.

By: Tracey M. Dotter  
Tracey M. Dotter

**AMENDMENT & RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 27, 2005, setting a three (3) month shortened statutory period for response, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows. A Petition to Extend the period for responding to the Office Action by 1 month, from August 27, 2005 to September 27, 2005 is submitted herewith.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION** begin on page 2.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** begin on page 3.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** begin on page 8.